

KIAWAH RIVER UTILITY COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 2018-102-S

Testimony of Lyndell Cummins

Before the South Carolina Public Service Commission

Testimony Prepared: September 10, 2019

Hearing Date: November 12, 2019

Q. Please state your name.

A. Lyndell Cummins.

Q. By whom are you employed?

A. I am employed by Thomas & Hutton Engineers as a Project Manager in its Mount Pleasant office.

Q. Are you a licensed professional engineer in South Carolina?

A. Yes, I have been a licensed professional engineer in South Carolina since January 1998. Professional Engineer in State of SC #18676. I have been working for Thomas & Hutton since 2006.

Q. What does your work involve at Thomas & Hutton?

A. I am the manager of an array of environmental related services including water/wastewater project design, as well as construction engineering services for these projects.

1

2 **Q. Have you been involved with the development of Kiawah River on Johns**
3 **Island?**

4 A. Yes, Thomas & Hutton is the lead civil engineer for Kiawah River. My role
5 includes overseeing the design, permitting, and construction of the wastewater
6 treatment plant (“WWTP”) and the other wastewater infrastructure that is
7 necessary to serve all of Kiawah River as it is developed over time.

8

9 **Q. Have you and Thomas & Hutton been the engineers of record for the design,**
10 **permitting and construction of other wastewater treatment plants?**

11 A. Yes, we have done this many times. I have been personally involved in
12 engineering wastewater treatment plants for over 40 years.

13

14 **Q. Did you partake in drafting the plans and specifications for the WWTP that**
15 **have been submitted to the Commission as Exhibit 4A (Construction Plans)**
16 **and 4B (Project Specifications) to KRUC’s application?**

17 A. Yes, I was very involved with Mark Yodice in our firm in the design drawings
18 and specifications for the WWTP for Kiawah River. Mark was the engineer of
19 record who certified the drawings but I reviewed and approved them before
20 certification.

21

22 **Q. Do you have knowledge of the applicable state and federal regulations that**
23 **govern wastewater treatment plants and their design?**

1 A. Yes, very familiar.

2

3 **Q. Do you also have knowledge of good engineering practices for the design of**
4 **wastewater treatment plants.**

5 A. Yes.

6

7 **Q. Did Thomas & Hutton's design conform to the regulatory requirements and**
8 **good engineering practices for a wastewater treatment plant of this nature?**

9 A. Yes, in every respect.

10

11 **Q. Did DHEC approve the design drawings and specifications of Thomas &**
12 **Hutton and issue its permit for the construction of the WWTP for Kiawah**
13 **River that is Exhibit 5 to the application of KRUC?**

14 A. Yes.

15

16 **Q. What is the nature of the wastewater treatment plant designed by Thomas &**
17 **Hutton for Kiawah River?**

18 A. The plant was initially classified as a Group IV Physical/Chemical treatment
19 plant. The classification was later corrected to a Group III: B (Biological)
20 treatment plant. Phase 1 of the plant is designed to handle and treat up to 110,000
21 gallons per day (gpd). The treated wastewater will be stored in a 770,000 gallon
22 lined lagoon during inclement weather. There will then be a land application of
23 tertiary treated wastewater by spraying it on a large dedicated site at Kiawah

1 River. We have obtained an NPDES Permit (No. ND 008897) that authorizes this
2 land application.

3

4 **Q. Did you look into whether there might be a potential revenue source for**
5 **KRUC through sale of its treated effluent?**

6 A. Yes, we did and determined that there was no market since there is no golf course.
7 Also, the cost of the additional infrastructure necessary to transmit the treated
8 effluent far exceeds any possible future revenue.

9

10 **Q. Were you and Thomas & Hutton involved in the actual construction of the**
11 **wastewater treatment plant at Kiawah River?**

12 A. Yes, we oversaw the construction of the plant.

13

14 **Q. Has construction of the plant been completed?**

15 A. Yes, it was completed earlier this year.

16

17 **Q. Has DHEC inspected the constructed plant and approved it?**

18 A. Yes, it has inspected it and issued a temporary approval to operate.

19

20 **Q. Please explain the reason the permit is a temporary permit?**

21 A. DHEC has approved the construction of the plant but has not issued the final
22 permit for the operation of the plant. The plant will work as designed only if there
23 is at least 4000 gpd of wastewater flow into the plant. At present, there are very

1 few, if any, occupied structures. As a result, we have secured a permit from
2 DHEC that allows us to store the wastewater in the aerated lagoon and pump the
3 stored wastewater through the plant after the membranes are installed. Once the
4 wastewater flow reaches 4000gpd, we will install the membranes, obtain the final
5 approval to operate from DHEC, and commence the operation of the plant.
6

7 **Q. Is the letter dated June 12, 2019, from Brenda Green of the Domestic**
8 **Wastewater Permitting Section of DHEC to Kevin O'Neill attached as**
9 **Exhibit 1 to your testimony, a true and correct copy of the letter from DHEC**
10 **extending permission to use the wastewater lagoon and extending the**
11 **temporary permit from DHEC for the WWTP until June 30, 2020?**

12 A. Yes.
13

14 **Q. When do you anticipate that you will have final approval of the WWTP and**
15 **its operation?**

16 A. Once we have a sustained wastewater flow of at least 4000 gpd, we will install the
17 membranes and begin operation of the plant. At that time, we fully expect DHEC
18 to issue the final approval for the operation of the WWTP. We anticipate this
19 happening before June 30, 2020.
20

21 **Q. Will you be available on November 12, 2019, the date the hearing was**
22 **rescheduled to accommodate the schedule of one of ORS's witnesses?**

1 A. Unfortunately I cannot be available on that date. I have a longstanding
2 commitment on that date that I cannot change.

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4 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

5 A. Yes.

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June 12, 2019

Kevin O'Neill
Kiawah River Utility Company
211 King Street
Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29401

RE: Temporary Lagoon Storage – Approval – Extension
Kiawah River Plantation WWTP (ND0088897)
Charleston County

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

The Department was recently notified by Thomas and Hutton that four homes have been constructed but are not yet occupied. It is clear that the minimum wastewater flow of four thousand (4,000) gallons per day required to operate the WWTP will not be achieved prior to June 30, 2019. Therefore, this letter will serve as an extension to the original approval for temporary storage of wastewater in the existing lagoon, which the Department granted on December 13, 2018.

The conditions and requirements set forth in the original approval shall remain in effect until this approval expires. With this extension, the temporary approval for the Kiawah River Plantation WWTP will expire on June 30, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Edwards of my staff at edwardaj@dhec.sc.gov or at (803) 898-1271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Green", is written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Green, Manager
Domestic Wastewater Permitting Section
Water Facilities Permitting Division

cc: Shawn Clarke, PE, Director, Water Facilities Permitting Division
Adam Cannon, Manager, Water Pollution Enforcement Section
Stephanie White, Low Country BEHS Charleston
Mark Yodice, PE, Thomas and Hutton
Lindy Cummins, PE, Thomas and Hutton